

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 2414

NODIS

FOR ARA TODMAN AND AF MOOSE

PASS BRZEZINSKI WHITE HOUSE

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, US, CU, AO
SUBJECT: CUBANS' INTEREST IN MEETING WITH AMBASSADOR YOUNG

1. SUMMARY: CUBAN UN MISSION FIRST SECRETARY JULIAN RIZO HAS EXPRESSED TO STONEY COOKS (EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT TO AMBASSADOR YOUNG) PREMIER FIDEL CASTRO'S INTEREST IN DISCUSSING WITH YOUNG THE QUESTION OF ANBOLA. RIZO ALSO EXTENDED AN INTIVATION TO COOKS AND HIS WIFE TO VISIT CUBA TO EXPLORE FURTHER THE POSSIBILITY OF SUCH TALKS. END SUMMARY

2. ON JULY 20 MR. MRS, HARRY BELAFONTE, WHO RECENTLY RETURNED FROM HAVANA AND MEETINGS WITH PREMIER CASTRO, PASSED A COMMUNIQUE TO STONEY COOKS WHICH INDICATED THAT CUBAN UN FIRST SECRETARY JULIAN RIZO WAS INTERESTED IN DISCUSSING WITH COOKS POTENTIAL TALKS BETWEEN AMBASSADOR YOUNG AND PREMIER CASTRO. RIZO SUBSEQUENTLY CALLED COOKS AND A MEETING WAS ARRANGED IN THE UN DELEGATES LUNGE FOR 4 PM ON JULY 28.

3. DISCUSSION BEGAN WITH RIZO EXTENDING AN INMVITATION TO
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COOKS AND HIS WIFE TO VISIT CUBA. RIZO STATED QUITE FRANKLY THAT SUCH A VISIT COULD BE KEY IN PAVING THE WAY FOR MEANINGFUL CONVERSATIONS BETWEEN CASTRO AND YOUNG CONCERNING ANGOLA. COOKS INFORMED RIZO THAT YOUNG FELT BILATERAL DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN THE US GOVERNMENT AND CUBA WERE GOING WELL UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF ASSISTANT SECRETARY TODMAN AND THAT IT WAS NOT AN OPPORTUNE TIME

FOR SUCH A VISIT. COOKS STATED THAT ALTHOUGH YOUNG WAS NOT ALTOGETHER CERTAIN THAT A REUNIFICATION OR RECONCILIATION BETWEEN THE MPLA GOVERNMENT AND UNITA WAS POSSIBLE, THAT IF THE GOVERNMENT OF CUBA FELT THERE WAS A REAL POSSIBILITY, THEN YOUNG WOULD BE INTERESTED IN PURSUING WITH THE STATE DEPARTMENT THE QUESTION OF HOLDING DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN HIMSELF AND CASTRO OR OTHER CUBAN REPRESENTATIVES ON THE SUBJECT.

4. RIZO ASKED IF THERE HAD BEEN ANY CONSIDERATION GIVEN DURING THE PLANNING OF YOUNG'S CARIBBEAN TRIP TO A STOP IN CUBA. COOKS REPLIED THAT THIS WAS A VERY BRIEF TRIP AND ONLY A LIMITED NUMBER OF COUNTRIES COULD BE INCLUDED. RIZO POINTED OUT THAT RELATIONS BETWEEN PRIME MINISTER MANLEY OF JAMAICA AND CASTRO WERE VERY GOOD AND THAT FROM THE FURTHEST POINT JAMAICA WAS NOT MORE THAN FORTY MINUTES FROM HAVANA AND THE DISTANCE FROM KINGSTON TO ORIENTE PROVINCE WAS NOT MORE THAN TWENTY MINUTES AWAY; THEREFORE, WOULD YOUNG BE INTERESTED IN PURSUING THE POSSIBILITY OF HOLDING SUCH CONVERSATIONS DURING THIS PLANNED TRIP. COOKS REPLIED THAT YOUNG'S PRESENT SCHEDULE MADE SUCH A MEETING DIFFICULT. HOWEVER, CONSIDERING THE IMPORTANCE OF THE ISSUES OF ANGOLA AND SOUTHERN AFRICA, THE POSSIBILITY OF ARRANGING A MEETING WOULD CERTAINLY BE CONSIDERED AND RAISED WITH SECRETARY VANCE AND OTHERS IN THE DEPARTMENT.
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5. DISCUSSION THEN TURNED TO PAST DEVELOPMENTS IN ANGOLA: MPLOA AND UNITA BEFORE THE ADVENT OF SOUTH AFRICAN FORCES IN ANGOLA AND THE APPARENT MULATTO AND BLACK AFRICAN PROBLEM. RIZO SHOWED GREAT KNOWLEDGE OF EVENTS PAST AND PRESENT IN ANGOLA AND THE CUBAN INVOLVEMENT IN THAT COUNTRY. HE WAS EXTREMELY RELUCTANT TO COMMIT HIMSELF ON WHETHER PREMIER CASTRO WOULD BE HELPFUL IN BRINGING ABOUT A RECONCILIATION IN ANGOLA BUT GAVE ASSURANCES THAT CASTRO HAD AS MUCH INTEREST IN DISCUSSING THIS ISSUE AS AMBASSADOR YOUNG HAD.

6. RIZO SAID HIS TOUR OF DUTY IN THE US WOULD SOON END, POSSIBLY WITHIN THE NEXT MONTH, AND HE ENCOURAGED COOKS TO RESPOND WITHIN THE NEXT TEN DAYS TO THE INVITATION TO VISIT CUBA. RIZO SAID HE WOULD ALSO EXPLORE THE POSSIBILITY FOR PRELIMINARY DISCUSSIONS WITH COOKS HERE IN NEW YORK.

7. ACTION REQUESTED: DEPARTMENT'S COMMENTS ON ABOVE AND SUGGESTED GUIDANCE FOR RESPONSE TO RIZO.
FYI--RIZO SEEMS TO BE WELL-CONNECTED WITH THE GOVERN-

MENT IN CUBA.
YOUNG

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